

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending upon entry of the present amendment. Claim 1 has been amended and new claims 24-30 have been added.

Claims 1-4 as filed were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,853,234 to Bentley et al. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4 as presently recited are not anticipated by Bentley.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,794,519 to Fischer. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as presently recited is not anticipated by Fischer.

Neither Fischer nor Bentley disclose a cartridge having inlet apertures that are arranged around and substantially surround the periphery of the compartment, as presently recited in claim 1. Fischer discloses needles 9 that pierce the upper portion of the capsule 30. The piercings made by the needles 9 do not substantially surround the periphery of the capsule. Fischer discloses a package 1 having a centrally-located recess 5 which is adapted for the injection of water. Fischer also discloses a pair of parallel channels 27 having inlet slots 28. The channels 27 with slots 28 extend on only two of the four sides of the generally rectangular cartridge, and thus do not substantially surround the periphery.

Original dependent claims 12-15 have been rewritten as new claims 24-27 and include the limitations of the base and intervening claims.

Bentley does not disclose a cartridge having inlet apertures provided in an outer member of the cartridge and outlet apertures provided in an inner member of the cartridge, as recited in independent claim 24. To the contrary, Bentley discloses inlet slots 28 between castellations 29 and outlet slots 30 between castellations 34 that are provided in the same member, as illustrated in Figure 6, and not in separate outer and inner members.

With respect to claim 25, Bentley fails to disclose an inner member comprising a discharge spout communicating with the outlet apertures. As discussed with respect to claim 24, Bentley does not disclose separate outer and inner members.

With respect to claim 26, the cartridge of Bentley is not disc-shaped. No mention of this claim limitation is made in the Office action.

Application No. 10/763,534
Amendment dated April 6, 2006
Reply to the Office action of February 7, 2006

With respect to claim 27, Bentley does not disclose a cartridge where the flow of aqueous medium through the inlet apertures into the compartment is directed radially inwards towards a centre of the cartridge. Instead, Bentley discloses inlet slots 28 that are formed in a pair of parallel channels 27.

New claims 28-30 are also submitted to be patentable over the cited references.

For the reasons set forth above, claims 1-30 are believed to be allowable over the cited references, and reconsideration of claims 1-23 and allowance of claims 1-23 are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in this application to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 6, 2006



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